THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Railways Act, 1989 no weighment at destination is permissible of goods booked at Owner's risk rate. Since coal is generally booked by consignors at owner's risk rate, weighment is not granted. But this is not responsible for pilferage of coal in transit.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) According to the information received from the Ministry of coal, government have so far not received any report of pilferage of coal if such high magnitude from the collieries. Hence question of any enquiry does not arise.

Conversion of Rupsa-Bangripusi Narrow Gauge Line

1076. SHRI CHANDRA MOHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme or programme has been chalked out for conversion of narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines during the Eighth Five Year Plan period in the country and whether Rupsa-Bangripusi narrow gauge line has been included therein;

(b) whether there is any proposal to connect this line to Tatanagar; and

(c) if so, by when the Rupsa-Bangripusi Line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) An Action Plan for conversion of selected Metre Gauge/ Narrow Gauge lines to B. G. has been taken up. About 10,000 kms of such lines have been included in the first phase of this plan, Of this 6,000 kms are proposed to be converted during the 8th Five Year Plan. Rupsa- Bangripusi section is not included in this phase of the Action Plan.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Rupsa-Bangripusi will be considered along with other lines while taking up the next phase of the Action Plan.

Transferring Railway Land to the Co-operative Housing Societies

1077. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the Maharashtra Government's proposal for transfering Railway Land to the Cooperative Housing Societies of the Slum dwellers residing along the Railway lines in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when such a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The State Government have requested for leasing of the land at a nominal rate of 1% of the market value of land. Railways have offered either to relinquish to the State Government the land beyond the safety zone and surplus to Railways' requirement at market rates or on exchange basis or to license this land at 6% of the market value. Further decision in the matter lies with the State Government of Maharashtra.

Conversion of Metre Gauge Line into Broad Gauge in Rajasthan

1078. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at present non-availability of wagons and also the limited carrying and movement capacity in metre gauge sector are responsible for low production of steel grade limestone at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to expedite the

conversion of (i) Sawai Madhopur-Jaipur-Jodhpur sector to broad gauge, and (ii) Jodhpur-Jaisalmer sector with provision of extension of new broad gauge up to Ramgarh and supply of wagons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir. During the current year January to April 12348 wagons have been loaded at Jaisalmer compared to only 10742 wagons in the corresponding period last year. As on 30-4-92, no indent for limestone was outstanding at Jaisalmer.

(b) Conversion of Sawai Madhopur-Jaipur section is targetted for completion during 1992-93 and the sections Jaipur Jodhpur and Jodhpur-Jaisalmer are targetted for completion in the 8th Plan.

There is, however, no proposal to extend the Broad Gauge line up to Ramgarh.

Metre Gauge Line in Goa

1079. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the present M. G. Railway line which runs very close to Dabolim Airport in Goa does not permit any expansion activities of the Airport on Northern Side ; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to ensure that when the conversion of this line is taken up it is deviated away from this Airport so as to permit the Civil Aviation Department better access for expansion projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Complimentary Passes

1080. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AZFAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of complimentary passes issued by the Railways during the period from the 1st April, 1991 to 31st March, 1992 ; and

(b) what are the details of the pass holders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) During the period from 1-4-1991 to 31-3-1992, 92 Complimentary Card Passes were issued to individuals/organisations other than Freedom Fighters, as per details given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix CLXIII, Annexure No. 20].

Connecting Madras and Dindigul via Vellupuram by Broad Gauge

1081. SHRI S. K.T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to connect Madras and Dindigul via Vellupuram and Tiruchirapalli by Broad Gauge so that the trunk line of Railways in Tamil Nadu is linked with the Broad Gauge Lines in the country ;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the present Madras, Jolarpet, Erode, Karur and Dindigul cannot serve South Arcot, Trichy, Thanjaur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Pon. Muthuranalingam. Thevar districts of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry ; and

(c) whether Government would retain the existing metre gauge line between Maniyachi and Madurai when Maniyachi is linked with Madurai by broad gauge ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

1082. [*Transferred to the 12th May*, 1982].

Linkage for Wagons from the Collieries

1083. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been linkage for wagons from the collieries